

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 11 and 12 have been added. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A karabiner comprising a generally C-shaped body, with its free ends curved towards each other and forming a gap therebetween, and a gate on one end of the body for closing the gap, the gate having a locking barrel thereon for locking the gate to the other end of the body, the barrel having a greater thickness or strength on its face outward of the body, wherein the barrel overlaps the free end of the body when locking the gate in a closed position and wherein the barrel has a greater thickness or strength on its face outward of the body when the gate is in a closed position so as to reinforce the karabiner against inward forces applied to the gate region thereof.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is slidable along the gate to a locking position, ~~where the barrel overlaps the free end of the body with the gate in a closed position.~~

Claim 3 (original): A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is screw threadedly mounted on the gate for movement therealong for locking the gate.

Claim 4 (original): A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is a double locking or triple locking barrel.

Appl. No. 09/975,088
Amdt. dated May 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action of November 20, 2002
Attorney Docket No. 3265-011733

Claim 5 (original): A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel has additional thickness of material on the face or side of the barrel that will be outermost when it is in the position of locking the gate in a closed position.

Claim 6 (original): A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is made of carbon steel.

Claim 7 (original): A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is made of aluminum or stainless steel.

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Claim 8 (original): A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel is sized and/or made from suitable material, such that it can withstand push in forces upto 25kN.

Claim 9 (original): A karabiner as claimed in claim 1 having a substantially solid cylindrical gate.

Claim 10 (original): A karabiner as claimed in claim 1 having a wire gate.

Claim 11 (new): A karabiner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the barrel has a greater thickness or strength on its face sideward of the body when the gate is in a closed position so as to reinforce the karabiner against side forces applied to the gate region thereof.

Claim 12 (new): A karabiner as claimed in claim 11, wherein the region of greater thickness coincides with an aperture in the barrel.